

MINUTES
War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission Meeting
Monday, March 11, 2013 Board Conference Room
Michigan Historical Museum, Lansing

Attendance: Brian Dunnigan, David Hales, Jim McConnell, Dick Micka, Dennis Moore, Ralph Naveaux, Phil Porter

By Phone: Eric Hemenway, Molly Luempert-Coy, Russ Magnaghi, Jim Spurr

Absent: Bob Bury, George Zimmermann

The meeting was called to Order by Phil Porter, Chairman, at 1:01 p.m.

The minutes of the Friday, December 7, 2012, meeting at the Detroit Historical Museum were approved.

I. Updates and Initiatives

A. Video Documentary Status Report

Jim McConnell stated that sales of the "MAW" DVD are going well and he is very appreciative of the support provided by David Hales and the Wayne RESA staff. An order for 100 more copies has just been made for future sales. More than 250 have already been distributed through sales at Speaker Bureau events and through several museum gift shops, including the RRNBP. We wholesale at \$8/copy and sell at \$15/copy.

B. Battles of the River Raisin Reenactment, Jan. 19-20, 2013

Ralph Naveaux, Dick Micka, and several others commented on the wonderful crowds and programs marking the River Raisin events bicentennial. Almost all the Michigan 1812 Commissioners attended and the weather was very welcoming. Molly expressed appreciation to Monroe's Mayor for his active role in the historical activities.

C. Website and Media Update

Jim McConnell commended Jolene Priest for her continued efforts on behalf of the 1812 Commission, especially continuing to move press releases out to media and the DNR email group, along with updating our website, www.michigan.gov/war1812. The release on today's meeting generated a contact to Phil from Rick Pluta, Michigan Public Radio, for an update on 1812 activities. Phil provided Sandra Clark with background for the interview which was conducted while Phil was driving to Lansing for this meeting. A lengthy release on the October plans in cooperation with the Detroit Historical Society for marking the restoration of American control over Detroit (Sept. 29/30, 1813) is now being issued. Jim Spurr stated he is hoping to prepare some releases related to various Tall Ships activities on the Great Lakes this summer, including the visits to Bay City, Amherstburg, and the Battle of Lake Erie.

D. Education Initiatives

David Hales reported that he had made an education presentation at the "Mulling Over Michigan" conference organized by the Historical Society of Michigan. He is also continuing to work with the River Raisin National Battlefield Park and Chuck Estep, Monroe County ISD staff, on creating teacher-friendly curriculum materials. A second summer workshop is set for late July, following a successful program in 2013. Funding has been provided by the National Park Foundation.

E. 2013 Calendar of 1812 Events

Jim McConnell said later this week, he would be asking for support from 1812 Commissioners at some upcoming 1812 events, including staffing an exhibit table at the March 22-23 Local History Conference at the Holiday Inn, Livonia, and driving our speakers to the "Reflections on the War of 1812" International Symposium set for the Detroit Historical Museum on Monday, Oct. 14th. The drivers will be needed on Sat., Oct. 12, to shuttle our speakers from Metro Airport to The Inn on Ferry Street. With a Sunday, Oct. 13, 1812 Historic Sites Tour and 1812 Commission meeting on Tuesday morning, this will be a very busy time for the Commission. A special rate for lodging is available at The Inn on Ferry Street. Also, Commissioners can obtain the special DHS member rate if they register with Annette McConnell, using our program flyer.

F. Speakers Bureau Initiatives

We continue to gain both exposure and funds from our 1812 Speakers Bureau. We hope to obtain detailed information on each presentation to include in the official 1812 Archives. A form will be sent to all Commissioners requesting archival information.

II. New Business

A. Michigan Historical Center Use of "Michigan at War" Documentary Footage

Sandra Clark, Director, Michigan Historical Center, briefly left her staff birthday celebration, to ask for permission to use selected footage from the "Michigan at War: The Struggle for the Old Northwest, 1812-1815" as part of the renovation of the early 19th century display in the Michigan Historical Museum. A motion to grant approval as passed unanimously by the Commission. Brian Dunnigan, having recently been given the original footage by Chris Cook, will mail the material to Sandra Clark.

B. August 4, 2014 Battle of Mackinac Island

Phil reported that plans are now being developed for the Reenactment of this fascinating event. Additional information will be forthcoming in the next few months. A Commission meeting is set for the morning after the reenactment.

C. Grand Pacification Ball, March 2015 Planning

Phil indicated he was interested in hearing suggestions for plans for the Grand Pacification Ball in March 2015, one of the culminating events of the Commission's Strategic Plan. Dennis Moore said he had heard others were also planning events and wondered how we might best work collaboratively to implement this endeavor. He also reported that Brian Folmar, our MSU Intern, had continued researching the "Grand Pacification Ball," as suggested a few years ago by Jim McConnell. Dennis will share Brian's information once he receives it. Jim added that the new book "Border Crossings" issued by the Detroit Historical Society, has a well-researched article written by Merry Ellen Scofield, a WSU grad student. The book also includes very positive comments about the efforts of the Michigan War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission. An order form for the book was recently emailed to the more than 160 members of the GLW1812BC. Dennis added that he had some contact with a Kentucky dance group that might be interested in being a part of our programming, along with Detroit area and other appropriate groups.

Phil suggested that volunteers contact him if they wished to serve on a Grand Pacification Ball Planning Committee. A complete listing will be distributed within a week. Please notify Phil by Thursday, March 14th, if you wish to serve on this committee.

III. Member and Historic Site Reports

A. Russ Magnaghi reported that he had been contacted by a former student who was very interested in compiling information on Michigan's 1812 projects and plans. He had emailed the information to Phil who promised to share it with the Commission. Jim M. said his wife Annette has been compiling materials for the Archives of Michigan, and that he had spoken with State Archivist Mark Harvey about presenting the Michigan 1812 archive materials to the state at the conclusion of Commission activities in 2015. The work of this individual should be very worthwhile and is to be encouraged.

B. Molly Luempert-Coy reported that she was very pleased with the success of the Monroe "River Raisin Battlefield Bicentennial events and is looking for to the 1812 Commission programming now being developed for October 2013.

C. Eric Hemenway reported that he is working to complete an exhibit opening in early summer at the Harbor Springs Museum and is hopeful that all Commissioners will be able to see the exhibit next summer. He appreciated the support of the Michigan Humanities Council, the Mackinac State Historic Parks, Dennis Moore, and Brian Dunnigan. (Did I miss a group/person?)

D. Jim Spurr said he will be actively participating in the Tall Ships American Great Lakes Challenge events this summer and is especially looking forward to the Bicentennial of the Battle of Lake Erie.

E. Ralph Naveaux said the support of the re-enactors, the Commission, and the Monroe community all contributed to the success of the battle bicentennial. He is very grateful for this support.

F. Dick Micka said he was pleased to join Ralph and other re-enactors at the Battle of Queenston Heights last October, even if it was a deadly event for Isaac Brock. He mentioned learning about some POWs from the War of 1812, leading to a fascinating discussion by Brian, Jim, S., Phil and others about some great POW stories. This might be a very interesting 'research paper/press release' for the Commission to develop. Dick also reported that plans are being discussed to create a River Raisin Battlefield Heritage Trail, encompassing several related historic sites.

G. Brian Dunnigan said the 1812 exhibit of the Clements Library is now available online (<http://www.clements.umich.edu/exhibits/online/1812bicentennial/1812bicentennial.php>) and it contains extensive information on the War of 1812 in the Old Northwest. As a point of information, the Clements is moving to temporary facilities for the next several months while the building is being renovated and updated. He reported that Ed Hill of the Toledo Museum of Art is curating an exhibit to open soon in Toledo and that Alan Taylor is speaking at a conference at Bowling Green State University, Ohio, on Saturday, April 6th.

H. Dennis Moore reported that he had been pleased to attend events in Kentucky and Ohio, providing him with an opportunity to share ideas with 1812 leaders from these two key states. He was especially impressed by the work of the Kentucky National Guard and the Ohio 1812 Commission. Kentucky held a special "Canada Week in Kentucky" that produced a variety of interesting materials. Hopefully, we will be able to continue our close relationships with these two states and the 1812 activities of southwestern Ontario.

I. David Hales yielded the balance of his time to Jim McConnell, who graciously agreed to fill it.

J. Jim McConnell invited everyone to attend the next meeting on Friday, April 19 of the GLW1812BC at Detroit Historical Museum; and also join the Tues., April 9 11 a.m Ed Furgol US Navy International Conference call. The call in number is 1-661-673-8600, access code 757791#. Jim S. and Dick M. have regularly joined Jim in this phone meeting. He also thanked Commissioners for their quick support of funding the printing of 2,000 copies of the 1812 Road Map from the MotorCities Auto Heritage. This maps promote tourism at 1812 historic sites in Michigan, northwestern Ohio, and southwestern Ontario. They will be distributed at key upcoming historical gatherings, such as the Local History Conference and at the sites.

K. Jim M. then presented two new initiatives for the Commissioners to consider.

1. Mich. 1812 Polo Shirt Order

He had discussed polo shirt ordering options with Maryne Bentley, coordinator of the RRNBP gift shop. She can provide attractive shirts, using a special pre-order form for use in the Spring, with delivery in summer 2013. The Commission supported the initiative and agreed that net proceeds will be donated to benefit the RRNBP Education programs.

2. Navel War of 1812 Paintings Exhibit

Mike Killelea, a member of the American Society of Marine Artists, contacted Jim M. asking for support in acquiring a venue to host a 40 painting exhibit of Naval Images of the War of 1812.. There was a consensus that the project would require staffing beyond the capacity of the Commission but that individual Commissioners will seek potential partners once Jim drafts an exhibit prospectus for the January-March 2014. Jim promised to share details with the Commissioners this week in a separate email. Dennis Moore suggested it might then be forwarded to potentially interested individuals and organizations. The ASMA Exhibit needs a secured site, some funding and promotional support, and organization of special events at the site to increase awareness. This is an outstanding opportunity if we can find appropriate partners.

IV. Next Meeting

At the suggestion of Chairman Phil Porter, the May 20 meeting was cancelled and an invitation from Eric Hemenway to meet in Harbor Springs on July 29 was accepted (In place of Mackinac Island). While details are still being finalized, a copy of the revised meeting calendar is attached to these draft minutes.